

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claims 1-10 and 15-20 were allowed. Claims 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the newly cited reference to Koishikawa et al. (USP 5,560,247). Claim 25 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and was otherwise indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims..

Claim 22 was objected to, and the Examiner required amendment of the claim to change "the other part" to --the another part-- to be consistent with the terminology in base claim 21.

Applicants and their counsel acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-10 and 15-20 and the indication of allowability concerning the subject matter of combined claims 21/25.

In order to expedite allowance of their patent, applicants have elected to accept the allowed and allowable subject matter.

Thus in accordance with this amendment, rejected claims 21-24 have been canceled, and allowable dependent claim 25 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate all of the subject matter of base claim 21. In view of the

cancellation of claims 21-24, the objection to claim 22 has been rendered moot.

The present amendment, on its face, places the application in condition for allowance as all rejected claims have been canceled. The rewriting of allowable dependent claim 25 to independent form clearly does not raise a new issue that would require further search or consideration. Accordingly, entry of this amendment is deemed warranted under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

In the event the Examiner determines that something further need be done to place the application in allowable form, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney whereupon any outstanding matter will be promptly attended to.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and entry of this amendment together with passage of the application to issue are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAMS & WILKS
Attorneys for Applicants

By: 

Bruce L. Adams
Reg. No. 25,386

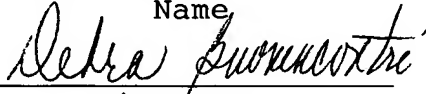
50 Broadway
31st Floor
New York, NY 10004
(212) 809-3700

MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS AF, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Debra Buonincontri

Name



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February 8, 2005

Date